

# TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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## BETTER ROADS IMPERATIVE NECESSITY

INASMUCH as the commissioners of Nye county have raised the general fund tax fifteen cents, while at the same time the assessment of Nye county has been raised more than a million dollars, in addition to which the board has borrowed \$17,000 and is at present under no unusual necessary expense—in view of these facts, it is remarkable, distressingly remarkable, that the only use they can put this money to is appropriating it to uses to revenge themselves upon an editor who tells the truth about them and their legal adviser, by name sanders.

The commissioners are driving transatlantic motor travel from Nye county, by neglecting the Midland trail. That portion of it in the Currant creek section is in abominable condition, with high centers and dust and mud alternately. The natural conditions are such that a most excellent highway could be constructed at little cost, small compared with the advantages to accrue.

White Pine county showed enterprise when its commissioners built a veritable boulevard from Ely to the county line. The people of Ely would prefer to have the transcontinental travel routed via the Midland trail, but they cannot recommend it to autoists who arrive at the parting of the ways, and who are naturally prejudiced in favor of the Lincoln highway, because of the publicity which it is receiving.

The residents of the Currant creek region are entitled to some consideration by the commissioners, for they are heavy taxpayers. But the deplorable condition of the road from that section to Tonopah, coupled with its excellence to Ely, caused them to petition the late legislature to divide Nye county and annex them to White Pine. They will do so again, with excellent prospects for success at the next session, provided they are not provided with a better road to the county seat.

## NO GAG FOR SENATE

THE attempt to introduce cloture or gag rule in the United States senate seems to be failing. And in that fact the country takes considerable satisfaction.

Undoubtedly the senate talks too much. Undoubtedly the quality of its oratory has deteriorated since the days of Hayne and Webster, somewhat in proportion as its quantity has increased. We are disposed to smile nowadays at the once proud title "the greatest deliberative body on earth." And yet the United States senate is still what that title implies. It is more efficient than the house of representatives, with a much higher average of ability. Since its chastening at the hands of muckrakers a few years ago, and the altered personnel resulting therefrom, it has become as responsive as the house to the popular will, and more successful in putting that will into effect. The nation has come to look again to the senate, rather than the lower house of congress, for sound and progressive legislation.

In the work the nation expects of the senate, unrestricted freedom of speech still has its part to play. In the much larger house of representatives debate has to be limited in order to get anything done. The senate is not yet so large but that it is feasible for a senator to have his say. Perhaps even an occasional irritating filibuster may be tolerated for the sake of the larger freedom it exemplifies.

This, too, is not an auspicious time for gagging the senate. With the national defense and allied matters of great moment up for decision, it would be unfair and unfortunate for the majority to ride rough-shod over the minority. Cloture means the rule of a partisan legislative machine. The big things to be done now are not partisan in nature, and should not be dealt with by partisan methods. The country wants all the information it can get on the national problems growing out of the war, and wants action in congress not according to any unalterable program, but according to all the light that can be shed on the subject from all sources.

It may be painful to have the senators talk so much, but the nation doesn't have to read all their speeches. The newspapers will pick out and print the interesting and significant parts. And because no senator is bottled up with a great message or a little grievance on his chest, there will be more likelihood of sane, patriotic action.

## LIGHT IS BREAKING

A NEW shipping bill is one of the big policies of the administration, to follow close after and really be a part of "preparedness," and having the double purpose of re-establishing the American flag on the seas, and also providing auxiliary ships for the navy in time of war, says the San Bernardino Sun.

One provision of the measure, as yet undecided, shows how much progress there has been in the year, due to the fact that another statute in force has driven every American ship off the Pacific. Say the dispatches:

Much attention was given to the provisions in regard to the manning of vessels by Americans, about which there has been no final decision. It was pointed out in the conference that while such a provision was desired in order that an adequate naval reserve might be built up, the exclusive employment of Americans on vessels in the Pacific trade would make competition with foreign merchantmen almost out of the question.

Evidently Washington is learning something about competition on the Pacific. A year or more ago a law was passed which did not

take that into account. The law was designed, among other things, to make traveling safer by sea, which was good, but it overlooked the fact that American sailors must have higher wages than Asiatics, and by making the latter ineligible to employment on American ships, it turned the business over to the ships whose commanders as well as sailors hail from the far east.

How the difficulty will be surmounted is yet to develop. The fact that it is discovered and admitted indicates progress.

Maybe Hawaii can defend us. She has a national guard 3700 strong, including Americans, Hawaiians, Filipinos, Koreans and Chinese. If continental United States had a national guard of the same strength in proportion to its population, it would number 3,100,000 men.

## THE LIFE LINE.



—Bronstrup in San Francisco Chronicle.

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